

Message Text

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P 211826Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012896

FOR GOUGH

FOLL REPEAT BANGKOK 00538 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SECDEF JCS

CINCPAC USSAG 10 JAN 74 QUOTE

O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0538

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TH

SUBJ: SPACE AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION FOR SOY

BEAN SEEDS

REF : A. CINCPAC 040318Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

B. CINCPAC 040322Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

1. GENERAL KRIANGSAK, DEPUTY CHIEF OFSSZAFF SUPREME COMMAND

AND OUR PRINCIPAL OPERA *NG CONTACT ON ALL MATTERS

RELATED TO US FORCES IN THAILAND, LAST OCTOBER

REQUESTED MISSION ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING SOY BEAN

SEED FOR RTG PURCHASE, INTENDED FOR RTG CIVIC

ACTION PROGRAMS IN NORTH THAILAND, INTER ALIA

AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION. PLATING

SEASON JANUARY TO MID-FEBUARY. THIS EFFORT HAS

BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO THE EXTENT THAT, AFTER SOME DELAY,

RTG HAS ISSUED A LETTER OF CREDIT FOR IMMEDIATE

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PURCHASE OF APPROXIMATELY 52,000 LBS. OF SEED

FROM TRANSWORLD, FRESNO, CALIFORNIA.

2. KRIANGSAK HAS ALSO REQUESTED ASSISTANCE TO DELIVER THESE SEED VIA MILITARY AIR ON SPACE AVAILABLE NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS. KRIANGSAK RECOGNIZES THAT COMMERCIAL AIR SHIPMENT PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE AND MILITARY FLIGHTS CURTAILED BY FUEL RESTRICTIONS, BUT NEVERTHELESS POINTS OUT THAT PROJECT BENEFICIAL TO BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS. PASSAGE OF TIME HAS NOW CREATED A SITUATION WHERE DELIVERY BY OTHER MEANS WOULD MISS CURRENT PLANTING SEASON WHICH ENDS MID-FEBRUARY AND FOR WHICH EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY IN NORTH THAILAND.

3. BOTH CINCPAC AND COMUSSAG HAVE SUPPORTED THIS COMPARATIVELY SMALL BUT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT REQUEST IN TERMS OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE, OPERATIONS, AND COOPERATION IN THAILAND. CINCPAC HAS INFORMED JCS/SECDEF (REFTELS) OF REQUEST AND RECOMMENDED DEPARTMENT SEEK SECDEF ASSISTANCE AND APPROVAL WHICH IS REQUIRED BY DOD DIRECTIVES.

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT SUPREME COMMAND PROJECT IS VALID AND DESERVES US ASSISTANCE; CURRENT URGENCY TO EFFECT DELIVERY TO THAILAND WITHIN NEXT 30 DAYS WOULD REQUIRE EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT, WHICH IS JUSTIFIED BY KEY POSITION OCCUPIED BY GENERAL KRIANGSAK WITH REGARD TO ALL ASPECTS OF US MILITARY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING OPERATIONAL MATTERS UNDER CURRENT CONSIDERATION. SOY BEAN PROJECT HAS ASSUMED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN *IS EYES AS TEST OF US WILLINGNESS TO GIVE SUPREME COMMAND SPECIAL CONSIDERATION, AS HAS BEEN DONE IN?PAST. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WE URGE DEPARTMENT TO COORDINATE WITH SECDEF/JCS ON URGENT BASIS TO OBTAIN EARLIEST AUTHORIZATION TO BEGIN MILITARY AIR MOVEMENT ON SPACE AVAILABLE, NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS.
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